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Greetings, CBC Family & Friends,

Welcome to your unexpected journey. What a rollercoaster ride this past weekend has been. From burying an influential figure and example in my life - Bishop Charles Franklin Rodgers, to the 17 hours it took for me to get back due to the failure of the airline system, to the historic ordination of Deacon Linda Hines, to the seismic shift on the political landscape, it has been a "crazy" weekend. However, through it all, the gracious hand of God got me (us) through it and got us all to where we are.

If you know me, you know I love our seniors. They can sometimes be better theologians than those of us with seminary degrees. As I was sitting next to a lady who discerned my frustration with getting a flight back to Delaware, she asked me a few questions. She said, "Sir, did you do everything you were supposed to do to get on this plane?" I said, "Yes, ma'am." She said, "You look like a preacher. Do you believe God knows you are here?" I said, "Yes, ma'am." She reached into her purse, offered me some candy, pulled out her Kindle reader, began reading her book, and said nothing else.

Life may not always work out the way we plan, but God knows where we are. Proverbs 19:21 reminds us, "Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand." We never know what God is up to or why things happen, but we do know He is in control and knows where we are.

Where are we going? Who can say? The road is yet before us. One step at a time, we are making our way there, wherever "there" is. Some people may wish things could return to how they were. Well...that train had left the station, and, honestly, we will never like all the changes. Things will happen, suffering will happen temporarily, we will lose people we love, and the twists and turns will often not make sense. There will be days when we will wonder if we have come to an end of something or if our hopes are hopeless. But guess what? We are not by ourselves. Out of all I do not know, I do know that the Lord is with us, and He knows where we are! In these times of uncertainty, we have the certainty of God. As Hebrews 6:19 reminds us, our hope is sure.

So, what is our response? We get up, dust ourselves off, and prepare for what is next. We have things to do, projects to finish, a consequential election that requires our participation, adjustments to make, newness to embrace, people to forgive and love, and a praise we have yet to render to our God who is always good.

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